

Application No. 10/730,362
Amendment dated July 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 14, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The sheet of drawings (Sheet 8 of 11) in the appendix attached herein includes changes to Figure 8. This sheet replaces the original Sheet 8 that previously omitted reference numbers for some elements of Figure 8. The reference numbers have been added on the replacement sheet.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Remarks / Arguments:

In complete response to the Office Action of March 14, 2005, on the above-identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the specification, the paragraph beginning on Page 22, Line 8, has been amended to reference features shown in Figure 8. Claims 1-50 are pending. Claims 1-8, 14-44, and 46-50 stand rejected. Claims 9-13 and 45 stand objected to, but the Examiner has acknowledged that these claims are directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants have currently amended claims 1, 4, 5, 24, 25, 27, 47, 49, and 50. Applicants have canceled claims 3, 26, and 48. Applicants have added new claim 51, which is fully supported in the specification.

10, 11, 12

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claim 50 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 50 to further define the invention. Applicants believe claim 50, as amended, particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter of the invention.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-2, 25, and 47-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 6,229,838 (Flichy et al). Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 25, and 47. Applicants believe independent claims 1, 25, and 47, as amended, are patentable over Flichy et al. Claim 48 has been canceled. Remaining claims 2, 49, and 50 are dependent claims on amended claims 1 and 47, and thus are also are patentable over Flichy et al.

Claims 1-8, 14-24, and 47-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 5,554,022 (Nabors, Jr. et al).

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 25, and 47. Applicants believe independent claims 1, 25, and 47, as amended, are patentable over Nabors, Jr. et al. Claims 3 and 48 have been canceled. Remaining claims 2, 4-8, 14-24, and 49- 50 are dependent claims on amended claims 1 and 47, and thus are also are patentable over Nabors, Jr. et al.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 25-44, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of Nabors, Jr. et al. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 25, and 47. Applicants believe independent claim 25, as amended, is patentable over the prior art in view of Nabors, Jr. et al. Remaining claims 26-44 and 46 are dependent claims on amended claim 25, and thus are also are patentable over the prior art in view of Nabors, Jr. et al.

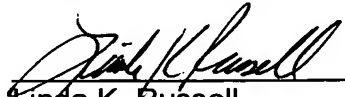
Claims 9-13 and 45 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were noted by the Examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants believe the base claims are now allowable, thus claims 9-13 and 45 now stand in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion:

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, he is invited to call Linda K. Russell at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

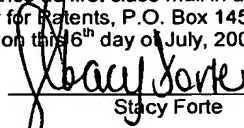


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 6th day of July, 2005.



Stacy Forte

